Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

procedure, Professor Rossbach places, uncovered, on a slide, a drop of water containing Infusoria, to which, being carefully examined, a little of the suspected fluid is applied. If organic poison be present the Infusoria become a formless sediment. 1–15,000,000 of a grain of atropine may be thus detected.—*Science Gossip.*

SLIDES OF MARINE ALGÆ.—Rev. A. B. Hervey of Taunton, Mass., will mail to any address, for two dollars, a set of six slides showing the characteristic fruit of the six great groups into which Professor Agardh divides the Red Algæ.

——:o:——

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— A number of final reports of the Norwegian North Atlantic Expedition have recently appeared. It has been found, says the New York *Nation*, that free carbonic acid does not exist in ordinary sea-water, which indeed has an alkaline reaction, but that it is present in the form of carbonates, and in a less degree of bicarbonates. In regard to saltness, a remarkable fact was determined, which has a most important bearing on various theories of oceanic circulation—namely, that the excess of salt noticeable and expected in the warm Atlantic current water was not confined to it, but almost equally characterized the deep strata, which were reduced to the freezing point. This water is, therefore, not a Polar indraught, as has been supposed, Arctic or Antarctic, but is tropical surface water, which has been cooled; while the Polar water continues equally distinguished from it by its deficient saltness, and appears to allow the cooled salt water of the surface to sink through it without mixing, and to form on the bottom certain portions of what has been called the "cold area."

Six or seven new species of fishes, a ray, a sucking pout *(Liparis)*, several species of Lycodes, were discovered, together with a translucent "ghost," with ventral fins reduced to long biped filaments attached to the throat, and with no scales, which was called *Rhodichthys regina.* It was brought up from a depth of a mile and a half in the open sea between Jan Mayen and Finmark.

— The Fourth Annual Book of the Michigan Sportsmen's Association is an interesting document. This is one of the most useful of such societies, and is doing a good work in cultivating the proper tone in regard to the preservation of game, a matter in which every naturalist is interested. How important the subject is, may be seen upon reading the article by Prof. Roney on the destruction of deer in 1880, and the necessity of prohibitory export laws. It appears that in 1877, in two months, 15,000 deer were killed in Michigan, of which, at least, 8,500 were exported from the State. In 1878, a grand total of 1,600,000 pounds of venison, or about 21,000 deer were slaughtered, of which 13,500 were killed by still hunters, 3,000 of these being killed for the hides alone, and the balance shipped out of the State to Eastern, Southern and Western markets. In 1880, the destruction of deer was greater than ever before in the history of the State, 10,000 deer being shipped from fifteen stations alone, and the total number of deer killed being 70,000, or about 10,000,000 pounds of venison. This shocking destruction of deer is paralleled by the wanton destruction of game farther west. Organized societies, which demand and create proper legislation to prevent this evil, are doing a great work for civilization.

— Prof. S. A. Forbes has spent the last two months exploring, with sounding line, dredges and beam trawl, the small lakes of Northeastern Illinois, Geneva lake in Wisconsin and some parts of Lake Michigan, viz.: the southwest part, off Chicago, from the shore to seven miles out, and the regions of Grand Traverse bay in Michigan. In the latter he dredged and hauled the trawl in 105 fathoms. He also used the towing net everywhere, with very interesting results. The most important collections made are those of mollusks, deep-water crustaceans, entomostracans and Cottoid fishes. The species collected in Lake Michigan by Stimpson and Miller, and afterwards lost in the Chicago fire, were obtained in abundance, and some were found not reported by previous collectors. The greatest novelties occur among the entomostraca.

The beam trawl was found admirably adapted to the collection of Cottoids, but few other fishes were taken by it. In the smaller lakes it took nothing not obtainable by the use of the dredge.

Full notes were kept of the vertical range of plant and animal life, and of the relative abundance of species at various depths. The results will be reported in detail in the bulletins of the Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History.

— The bread distributed on a recent occasion to a cavalry detachment in a garrison at Oran, in Algeria, was moldy, covered with dark and orange cryptogamic vegetation, though made only 48 hours previously. The men refused to eat it, and mostly threw it away; but some offered it to their horses, who scarcely touched it, with exception of two, which ate each about half a kilogramme. The consequence was a true poisoning, not followed by death, but seriously injuring one of the horses. (Such poisoning of animals has been known to occur before.) M. Megnin was led to study the substances developed on the bread, and he found there were two kinds of mold, one *Ascophora nigricans* forming a flaky cover of sooty-color; the other, *Oidium aurantiacum*, forming spots of salmon-color, and with great power of multiplication. M. Megnin believes the sporules of these molds existed in the flour before the bread was made. He cultivated the molds specially and experimented on dogs with them. The sickness and vomiting were much more violent with the *Ascophora nigricans*, but the other had considerable action.

— Dr. Chavanne has published a hypsometrical map of Africa, and has calculated, from 8000 hypsometrical measurements, the average height of the whole continent, which he finds to be no less than 661.8 metres (with a probable error of ± metres). This very high figure obviously, says *Nature*, is the result of the very great extension of high plateaux, which we do not find to such an extent even in Asia.

— The glacier of Zerafshan, which is sixteen miles long, has been explored throughout its whole length; it has thirteen secondary glaciers. The Ala-taon mountains, in Asia, are also covered with mighty glaciers; these mountains are from 10,000 to 16,000 feet high.

— Texas is to have a State university. The governor has called the regents to meet at Austin to make a permanent organization preparatory to the establishment of the university.

— Dr. Gustaf Linnarson, the well-known palæontologist of the Swedish Geological Survey, died in September last at the age of 40 years.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

National Academy of Sciences.—Titles of papers read at Philadelphia meeting, commencing November 15, 1881:

On a gigantic Salpa found in the Gulf Stream. By Professor A. Agassiz.
The Echini of the Challenger Expedition. By Professor A. Agassiz.
The Classification of the Dinosauria. By Professor O. C. Marsh.
Succession in time of the Allotheria. By Professor O. C. Marsh.
Distribution of the Corals of Tortugas. Professor A. Agassiz
The Porpitidæ and Velellidæ of the Gulf Stream. By Professor A. Agassiz.
Complex Organic Acids. By Professor W. Gibbs.
The theory of Dynamo-Electric Machines. By Professor W. Gibbs.
The Phenacodontidæ, a new group of Perissodactyla. By Professor E. D. Cope.

Second day, Nov. 16:

A comparison between the shells of the Kjockkmödings of the coast of New England and the present shells of the same species. By Professor E. S. Morse.
The expedition to Mount Whitney, with observations on solar energy. By Professor S. B. Langley.
A peculiar vein containing gold and silver found in the Sierra Negretta or Black range. By Professor B. Silliman.
On the Life and Labors of Professor S. S. Haldemann. By Professor J. P. Lesley.
Logic of Numbers. By Professor Charles Pierce.
Chinoline Synthesis for Medical Uses. By Professor Henry Morton.
Hydrometer Scales. By Professor C. F. Chandler.
The Velocity of Light. By Professor Simon Newcomb.

Third day, Nov. 18:

Sorghum and some conclusions as to its value as a source of sugar. Read by invitation by Peter Collier.
Maschart's Electrometer and its use as a meteorological instrument. By Professor Geo. F. Barker.
The Fossil and recent Faunæ of the Oregon and Idaho deserts in relation to the antiquity of man. By Professor E. D. Cope.